June 16 – 22, 2022 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

# THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 24 www.associatednewspapers.net

## THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

**Vol. 137, No. 24**

Sumpter Township Trustees have approved the formation of a committee to review the job descriptions of some officials.

*See page 6.*

## THE CANTON EAGLE

**Vol. 75, No. 24**

After a two-year COVID hiatus, Canton Liberty Fest will celebrate the 29th anniversary of the event with a special three-day family event starting today in Heritage Park.

*See page 4.*

## THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

**Vol. 75, No. 24**

Celebrations of Juneteenth are planned in Inkster from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18 at Inkster Park, at the library and at Brookside Park.

*See page 3.*

## THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

**Vol. 22, No. 24**

Members of the Northville City Council voted unanimously at their June 6 meeting to continue the closure of two downtown streets through Nov. 7.

*See page 6.*

## THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

**Vol. 22, No. 24**

Plymouth police arrested a man who sent threatening emails to a local concrete company last Friday afternoon after hearing gunshots from his Karmada Street residence.

*See page 5.*

## THE ROMULUS ROMAN

**Vol. 137, No. 24**

"We're going to find a way," was one of the messages Romulus Mayor Robert McCraight emphasized during his first State of the City address.

*See page 3.*

## THE WAYNE EAGLE

**Vol. 75, No. 24**

Volunteers from Wayne worked in Soroptimist Park last Saturday cleaning and refreshing the area for residents to enjoy.

*See page 2.*

## THE WESTLAND EAGLE

**Vol. 75, No. 24**

Members of the Westland City Council recently gave their blessing to a proposed 64-unit development at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman Road.

*See page 2.*

# Westland approves 3-year balanced budget

Members of the Westland City Council unanimously approved a 3-year balanced budget proposal for fiscal years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 presented by Mayor William R. Wild during a recent meeting. The 3-year budget proposal preserves a "rainy day" fund balance of approximately $6.7 million.

> *The City of Westland achieved a major financial milestone in the history of the city with the adoption of this 3-year balanced budget.*

Highlights of proposed $72.4 million 2022-23 budget include: an overall taxable value increase of 6.15 percent derived from new development and rising real estate values in the city; $5.5 million for improvements to major and local roads throughout the city in 25 neighborhoods including 51 major and local roads; $4.7 million for an expansion to the William P. Faust Westland Public Library; $4.38 million for planned water and sewer capital projects in six neighborhoods and 41 roads throughout the 611 miles of water and sewer systems in the city and $2.8 million for the establishment of a brand new, all-inclusive playscape at Tattan Park,

The budget also includes funding for the creation of two additional positions within the Economic Development Department; a Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator and a Business Attraction Coordinator.

In addition, the budget provides for additional retiree healthcare contributions of $438,500; four new budgeted positions in the Water and Sewer Department to staff a planned basement flooding mitigation team; funding through a partnership with the Wayne-Westland School District to implement a new crossing guard safety program which offers high level training, equipment and uniforms and doubles the current staffing numbers; $150,000 to continue the voluntary Retiree Healthcare Cash Settlement Program, which received four interested retirees in the 2021-22 fiscal year, saving approximately $800,000 and funding to allow for the continuation of the popular Neighborhood Makeover Program, now entering the fifth year.

"The City of Westland achieved a major financial milestone in the history of the city with the adoption of this 3-year balanced budget," commented Wild. "The city is in a strong financial position and a 3-year balanced budget is a recognized best practice in local government. It is indicative of the spirit of cooperation and the shared values on good governance and excellence shared between the administration and city council."

City Council President James Hart also praised the extended

See **Budget,** page 2

# Death of Louis 'Lou' LaRiche is mourned

One of the most revered local businessmen and community supporters in the Plymouth community, Louis Henry LaRiche, 90, died June 9, in Northville.

Mr. LaRiche, the owner of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth, was known throughout the community for his generosity and community involvement. The car business, his family said, was his passion, surpassed only by his devotion to his beloved wife of 60 years, Gail, who died in 2014.

Mr. LaRiche was the son of Michael and Maria LaRiche who immigrated to America from Matrice, Italy in the Abruzzo region in 1913. The couple settled in Cleveland, Ohio to raise their family. Mr. LaRiche, their fourth son, was born Dec.12, 1931. Following his graduation from high school, he attended John Carroll University, where he met the love of his life, and future bride, Gail.

The newly married couple journeyed to Fort Riley, Kansas, where Mr. LaRiche served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to pursue his dream job in the car business. After working with his father and brothers at the family car dealerships in Cleveland, Mr. LaRiche was inspired to open his own dealership in 1964, a Volkswagen franchise in Findlay, Ohio. In 1971, he realized his longtime dream to become a Chevrolet dealer when he purchased Allison Chevrolet. The dealership was located on Main Street and Lou LaRiche Chevrolet was moved to the current location on Plymouth Road in 1972.

Mr. LaRiche also acquired a Toyota-Subaru dealership and a Chevrolet-Cadillac dealership, both in Findlay, Ohio.

Mr. LaRiche was a member of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club and volunteered year after year at the Fall Festival chicken barbeque even though he absolutely despised chicken. He was also a member of Legatus International of Ann Arbor and the Detroit Auto Dealers Association (serving as president of the Detroit Auto Show in 1985). The covered pavilion at the Miracle League field is named for Lou and Gail LaRiche as a tribute to their generous contributions to the community. The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce recognized Lou LaRiche Chevrolet as the Plymouth Large Business of the Year last March. The countless contributions of Mr. LaRiche and his family are evident throughout the Plymouth community.

Mr. LaRiche was a faithful member of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth for more than 50 years.

Louis "Lou" LaRiche

In addition to his cherished wife, Mr. LaRiche was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers.

Among his survivors are his seven children, of whom he was unfailingly proud: Michele ((Paul) Griffeth, Jacqueline Gordon (Doug Stamm), Scott (Dawn) LaRiche, John LaRiche (Sahar Kakish), Jim (Maureen) LaRiche, Bob (Tiare) LaRiche, and Suzanne (Mark) Merucci; his many grandchildren; great-grandchildren, and a host of friends who will treasure his memory.

Mr. LaRiche will lay in state at Our Lady of Good Counsel from 9 until 10 a.m. June 21 followed by a mass at 10 a.m. The church is located at 47650 North Territorial Road in Plymouth, 48170. A celebration of his life with an open house is planned from noon until 7 p.m. at the Italian American Banquet Center located at 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia, 48154. In 'Lou' of flowers, memorial donations would be welcomed at Angela Hospice of Livonia https://angelahospice.org or Miracle League of Plymouth https://www.miracleleagueofplymouth.com

Arrangements were entrusted to the Schrader Howell Funeral Home on Main Street in Plymouth.

Raymond Anthony Johnson, Jr.

# Man charged in 2 Metro Airport rapes

A Southfield man is facing multiple charges in two separate sexual assaults of women just days apart at Detroit Metro Airport.

In the latest incident, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has charged Raymond Anthony Jackson, Jr., 32, with one count of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm, two counts of criminal sexual conduct second degree and two counts of criminal sexual conduct 4th degree in connection with the assault of a 34-year-old Westland woman.

Jackson was also arrested and charged with attempting to sexually assault a 45-year-old woman at about 8:40 a.m. May 14 at the Blue Deck Parking Garage. In this instance, he is accused of leading the victim to a vacant area where he attempted to sexually assault her. He is facing a charge of kidnapping and aggravated indecent exposure in connection to that incident.

According to prosecutors, it is alleged that just days later, at about 7:35 a.m. May 17, Jackson approached the Westland woman after she parked her car in the same area of the airport garage as the May 14 victim. It is alleged that in this instance, Jackson came up behind the victim, grabbed her hair and threw her to the ground. He allegedly slammed her head several times on the concrete floor before sexually assaulting her.

The victim was able to scream and fight back and her attacker eventually fled the area. An investigation by officers from the Metro Detroit Airport Police assisted by the Romulus and

See **Rapes,** page 2

Wayne - Westland

## Good clean fun

Volunteers from Wayne worked in Soroptimist Park last Saturday cleaning and refreshing the area for residents to enjoy. The makeover volunteers included Ryan Sanders, Rob Darwiche, Wayne City Councilman Alfred Brock, Wayne Fire Chief Mike Stradtner, Wayne Building and Engineering Director Mike Buiten, Wayne Department of Public Works Assistant Director Ed Queen, the DPW crew, City Manager Lisa Nocerini, Kronk Boxing Coach Erskine Wade and his group of young boxers. Several area residents stopped by to thank the volunteers for their day-long efforts to clean and restore the park.

Photos by Alfred Brock.

# Condo development in former church is OK'd

Members of the Westland City Council recently gave their blessing to a proposed 64-unit development at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman Road.

Fadiy Salameh of Snow Realty told council members that he plans a two-phase development at the site which contains a former church. He said the project will include the renovating of the current church building into 30 apartment units and then the construction of 34 condominium units at the site. He said the plans include adding a second story to the current church building and that the condominium units will form a U shape around the building.

Salameh told the council members that he did not have a start date for the construction as currently material costs are fluid. He said he needed to wait for those costs to stabilize to begin the largest project his company has planned.

Council members unanimously approved the plans.

## Rapes

FROM PAGE 1

Detroit police departments, along with other agencies resulted in the identification and arrest of the defendant.

Jackson was arraigned on the May 17 charge in 34th District Court before Magistrate Alan Hindman who ordered a $150,000 cash/surety bond, with a GPS tether and no contact with the victim. Jackson's bond was set at $10,000 during his previous arraignment on the May 14 charges.

Prosecutors argued that Jackson is a flight risk and a danger to the community and told the court that he has an "extensive criminal record," including a pending misdemeanor domestic violence case from Southfield, a pending case for stealing/retaining a financial transaction device without consent in Kalamazoo County, and a pending felony receiving/concealing a stolen motor vehicle case in Wayne County, in arguing for a high bond.

He was charged in a 2021 misdemeanor stalking case, and on June 7, charges were recommended for a misdemeanor domestic violence and misdemeanor stalking case, according to prosecuting attorney Carley Kocks. She said that incident occurred only nine hours before the alleged May 17 sexual assault and informed the court of the charges he is facing in the May 14 incident. She said he has a history of failing to appear for court and that currently three women have personal protection orders against him.

"I think that Mr. Jackson is a danger to the community," Kocks said. "Not to be overly dramatic, or anything, but he's a menace to society and women everywhere."

"My client stands resolute that he is innocent of these charges," attorney Joshua Kaplan argued. "He is employed in Romulus. He has a 9-year-old son. I understand the prosecutor's point of view, however, we request a low cash bond on this incident and we have no objection to a GPS tether to provide comfort to the community and any concerns that you may have." That argument was not favored by the magistrate who subsequently set Jackson's bond at $150,000.

"The alleged actions of this defendant once again show that we are not safe from sexual assault anywhere or any time," Worthy said in a prepared statement. "I am not trying to be an alarmist, but we must stay focused and not let incidents like this ever be relegated to the back pages again. Prevention, education, and swift action by law enforcement are key."

## Budget

FROM PAGE 1

budget.

"Coming out of the pandemic, the city is only utilizing less than 20 percent of its ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) allocation to replace lost revenue and establish a 3-year balanced budget, which is something the council, administration and our residents can be very proud of," Hart said.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, July 14, 2022 for the following:

**HERITAGE PARK SPLASHPAD SHADE SAILS**

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK**

Publish 06/16/2022

CN2383 - 061622 2.5 x 2.052

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2022 for the following:

**SUMMIT POOL TILE RENOVATIONS - BID PACKAGE #01A**

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK**

Publish 06/16/2022

CN2384 - 061622 2.5 x 2.052

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

*Employment:* The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

*Effective Communication:* The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

*Modifications to Policies and Procedures:* The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Supervisor, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Supervisor, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 06/16/22

CN2381 - 061622 2.5 x 4.72

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE**
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING**
**July 5, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville MI. The ZBA will consider a request to appeal the special land use approval granted by the Planning Commission on April 26, 2022 for a new maintenance facility at Meadowbrook Country Club.

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans are available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 no later than 12:00 PM on the day of the above meeting.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals

**Publish: June 16, 2022**

NT0183 - 061622 2.5 x 1.962

**Canton Township Public Notice**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**1150 S. Canton Center Road**
**Canton, MI 48188**
**734-394-5100**

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC**
**BOARD OF REVIEW**

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Michael A. Siegrist, Clerk of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the Charter Township of Canton the July Board of Review will be held in the Canton Township Hall on the first floor, at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

The following is the schedule for July Board of Review.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 Meeting - 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the July Board of Review, you may contact the Assessing office at (734) 394-5111.

Michael A. Siegrist
Charter Township of Canton

**ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services to attend participate at the meeting/hearing should contact Kerreen Conley, Human Resources Manager, at 734-394-5260.
Reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice.
A complete copy of the Access to Public Meetings Policy is available at www.canton-mi.org

CN2382 - 061622 2.5 x 3.836

**OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

**NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS**

**DATE:** **Thursday, June 30, 2022**
**TIME:** **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
**LOCATION:** **Westland City Hall**
**Gene McKinney Ballroom**
**36300 Warren Road**
**Westland, MI 48185**
**QUESTIONS:** **(313) 365-0494**

The Wayne County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Apportionments on the above date, time, and location. The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the Wright Drain (West) Drainage District and Wright Drain (East) Drainage District boundaries. A map of the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions can be found on the Wayne County website at: https://www.waynecounty.com/departments/environmental/home.aspx.

A licensed professional engineer has recommended lands be added or removed from the Drainage Districts. A general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted from the Drainage Districts is as follows:

| Drain Name | Municipalities | Portions of Sections Added | Portions of Sections Removed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wright Drain (East) | City of Westland | - | 8-10,17 |
| | City of Garden City | 10 | 10 |
| Wright Drain (West) | City of Westland | 8-10,16,17 | 8-10,17 |
| | City of Garden City | - | 10 |

The Day of Review is also an opportunity to review the tentative apportionments of benefit for each parcel and municipality within the Wright Drain (West) and Wright Drain (East) Drainage Districts. Two apportionment rolls will be available for review for the Wright Drain (West). The first roll is an apportionment roll specific to the 2022 maintenance. The second roll available for review is the apportionment roll that will be used for future costs associated with the Wright Drain (West), including any future maintenance costs. The Wright Drain (East) will have a single apportionment roll available for review that will be used for future costs associated with the Wright Drain (East), including any future maintenance costs.

The Drain Commissioner, engineers, and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day and make revisions where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review. The computation of costs for the drains will also be available at the Day of Review. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Comments on the apportionment of benefits may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner in writing before the date of the Day of Review to the Wayne County Drain Commissioner at 400 Monroe Street, Suite 400, Detroit, Michigan 48226 or to ESGHelp@waynecounty.com, or comments may be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

The following is a list of any county, township, city, or village to be assessed at large:
- **Wright Drain (West)**: Wayne County and the City of Westland.
- **Wright Drain (East)**: Wayne County and the City of Garden City.

You may appeal the Drain Commissioner's decision to revise the district boundary to the Wayne County Circuit Court within ten (10) days, and you may also appeal the determination of apportionments to the Wayne County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

Elmeka N. Steele, Esq.
Wayne County Drain Commissioner

ROMULUS - INKSTER

# Mayor delivers first State of the City address

"We're going to find a way," was the message Romulus Mayor Robert McCraight emphasized during his first State of the City address to an enthusiastic audience June 7 at Romulus High School.

McCraight, who said he is often inspired by quotes from history, repeated Abraham Lincoln's remark. "Determine a thing can and should be done and we shall find a way," in his address explaining his goals for the city.

Since taking office, McCraight reported that within the first 60 days as mayor, he attended more than 30 meetings with community partners and local, regional and state elected officials. The meetings were all in an effort to promote Romulus and establish a working and comfortable relationship with other communities. He said many of the meetings, including several at the Mackinac Policy Conference helped promote the regional significance of the city.

"We're on the right track and we're not going to back down," he said.

He listed among many accomplishments during his time in office the accreditation of the Romulus Police Department by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. The Romulus department, he said, is one of only 38 police agencies in the state to have been awarded the distinction which is based on the best and most effective police practices.

> *I keep stressing to them that we are the gateway to Michigan. We are the first thing you see when you land (from a plane) in Michigan.*

McCraight also mentioned the cross-training of fire and police officers noting that many of them were unaware of policies and procedures in the other departments. He said that now they have shared ideas and that the first responders "can handle emergency situations in the same way."

McCraight reminded the audience that development at the Romulus Trade Center, a 171-acre, multi-million-dollar investment offering a combination of retail and industrial space is set to begin this year. He explained that the developers "upgraded the standards" regarding the development in the city and now will add 1,000 jobs in the area along with adding to the tax base.

He said the developer will add three commercial buildings at the site "on their dime" and added retail establishments. "We're hoping those jobs drive the economy," he said. One of those businesses, a Royal Farms, is the first of the franchise in the state.

He introduced a new team dedicated to controlling and solving blight complaints in the city and said that 88 percent of the blight citations or complaints had been satisfied. "We let owners know we expect a higher standard in this community," he said. He mentioned that a new owner of the Barrington Apartments is making $4 million in improvements at that building.

McCraight said he and his staff continue to attempt find ways to "fix the roads" in the city. "It's a failing road system," he said, and said he continues to meet with county and state officials regarding the need for improvements.

"I keep stressing to them that we are the gateway to Michigan. We are the first thing you see when you land (from a plane) in Michigan."

He said he hopes for a regional partnership to help fund roads and many other infrastructure improvements in the city. He said to date in his first term in office, 14 grants totaling more than $5 million in either grant funds or alternative funding have been requested or applied for by the city.

He mentioned his hope for a new veterans park near the current memorial and the rebuilding of the police headquarters which he described as a deterrent to recruiting new officers.

McCraight reminded the audience that in 2021, the City of Romulus ended the year with a $9,000 unassigned fund balance, the highest amount in recent history for the community, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

He closed his remarks by stressing the importance of community and family, citing the Hometown Heroes program and Person of the Year award winner Carol Bales, whom he said, "provided a blueprint for the next generation."

He closed his remarks noting his vision for the city remains transparency in all his administration's dealings and a strong sense of community and family.

"Family comes first, make sure they are involved," he said as he introduced his children, Declan and Dalia, along with his wife, Kendra. Presenting her with flowers, he thanked his wife for her support and patience.

Mayor Robert McCraight

# Inkster to mark Juneteenth with city celebrations

The federal holiday on Monday, June 20, will mark Juneteenth, a day commemorating the emancipation of enslaved black Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865.

The Emancipation Proclamation took place Jan. 1, 1863 when at the stroke of midnight, all enslaved people in confederate states were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were Black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the proclamation spreading news of freedom. In the westernmost confederate state of Texas, however, enslaved people did not become free until June 19, 1865 when 2,000 union troops arrived in Galveston to announce that more than 250,000 enslaved Black people were free by executive decree and the 13th Amendment. The day became known as Juneteenth by the newly freed people in Texas.

Juneteenth is marked as the second Independence Day in the United States. While it was celebrated in the Black community, it was only declared a national holiday by President Joe Biden in 2021.

A city celebration of Juneteenth is planned in Inkster from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18 at Inkster Park, 1550-1676 John Daly St. in the city.

The event, organized by Michigan United, will include music by VDJ Wada and an exhibition match with the Liberian Association of Michigan Soccer team. The soccer match will begin at noon.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a cookout basket and enjoy the food, fun, games and voter engagement. Seating will be limited, organizers said, so visitors should bring a chair if possible.

The holiday will also be celebrated from noon until 2 p.m. June 18 at the Leanna Hicks Public Library where a free, country-style event is planned. Organizers said there would be food, square dancing lessons, horses and a rodeo demonstration.

The event will also be celebrated at the Floyd B. Simmons Building and Brookside Park during the weekend. The free celebration is slated to continue from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. June 17 through 19 at 29150 Carlysle Ave. in the city.

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www.forestplaceoptical.com

# Canton

# Canton Liberty Fest lights up this weekend

After a two-year COVID hiatus, Canton Liberty Fest will celebrate its 29th anniversary with three family-friendly days from beginning today, June 16 through Saturday, June 18 in Heritage Park, adjacent to the Canton Administration Building.

While the traditional events have returned along with some new attractions, organizers have changed the Liberty Fest fireworks display to dusk tomorrow, June 17. This will provide a "rain date" of Saturday should weather interfere with the event.

Hours this year are 1 until 10 p.m. today; from 1 until 11 p.m. tomorrow and 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday. Major sponsors for this annual community event, include: BJ's Grocery, Community Financial, and The Village Dentist. Additional sponsors include: Brackney Chiropractic Health Center, Dermatology Specialist of Canton/Hamzavi Dermatology, The Goddard School of Canton, Star International Academy, U.S. Army, and Weatherguard Windows.

Visitors can satisfy their appetites throughout the festival, where participating area restaurants and food trucks will present local specialties. Liberty Festival food and the Beer and Wine Garden will again be located near the Amphitheater. On Friday and Saturday from 4-10 p.m., a variety of food trucks will be parked near the Amphitheater, with a tentative line-up that includes: Egg Roll Diva; Frio's Detroit; The Hoagie Roll; House of Mac; Impasto; Kona Ice; Little Caesars Pizza Truck; Little Kahua Shaved Ice; Little Lou's Hot Chicken; Meltdown Creamery; Poverino; Smokehouse 52 BBQ; and more. This year's participating food concessions include: Different Twist; Kona Ice; J & J Concessions; Veg-O-Rama and more.

On all three days of Liberty Fest, the Canton Rotary Club and the Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club will be hosting a Beer and Wine Garden, which is sponsored by O&W Distributors, from 4-10 p.m. today, and tomorrow and from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday. The tent is near the Amphitheater, where a selection of craft beers, hard ciders, and wine will be available. Festival-goers must be 21 years to purchase these adult beverages.

Tonight, the event includes Throwback Thursday Zumba at the Canton LIVE! Stage from 9-10 p.m. Music and instructors will be provided, visitors should be ready to move and dress in a style of their favorite decade. Participants are reminded to bring a water bottle to keep hydrated during this free event.

Flight will perform Rock and Jazz hits at the Canton LIVE Stage starting at 5 p.m. and beginning at 7 p.m., Allentown, a Billy Joel tribute band, will take the stage playing all of the piano man's hits.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce 50th Anniversary Walk of Fame Opening will begin at 5 p.m. this afternoon near the Amphitheater Stage. In addition, Trilogy performs at the Heritage Park Amphitheater starting at 6 p.m., delivering Pop and Top 40 hits. Freelance will perform starting at 8 p.m., covering top favorite top 40 hits that the whole family can enjoy.

Tomorrow, Friday, Canton LIVE! Stage highlights include Canton Community Groups performing from 1-5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. Mainstream Drive Band will get the audience dancing with popular covers in all genres. Then at 8 p.m., The Fruits will take the stage performing Alt-Rock, Power Pop, Funk, and Jazz.

Friday Amphitheater Stage entertainment will feature the Surfzup Band - Music of The Ventures, who will entertain audience members with hits from the '60s 5-7 p.m.; a special Hula Performance, featuring local dancers is planned from 7-7:55 p.m.; and Air Margaritaville, Detroit's premier Jimmy Buffet tribute band, will perform starting at 8 p.m.

Saturday highlights include the Canton Lions Club's Annual Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 a.m. at the North Pavilion. Chris Cakes of Michigan returns to flip pancakes high onto plates for those brave enough to catch them. Stop by for a tasty breakfast and make this a Liberty Fest tradition; while supplies last. In addition, a variety of fun characters will also be on hand adding to all of the fun from 9:30 until 11 a.m., including Princess Leia and Darth Vader.

Canton Leisure Services is again joining forces with Running Fit to host the 8th Annual Liberty Run, including 5K, 10K, and One Mile events. Participants are encouraged to register at www.cantonlibertyrun.com and run, walk, or stroll in these events. Participants will also receive finisher medals, as well as a race T-Shirt. Plus, running-theme awards will be handed out to the best "Liberty" running outfit.

Beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, the Canton Home Depot, located on Michigan Avenue, will be providing DIY hot air balloon model kits to the first 200 children 4 and older who stop by their craft tent, located near the Amphitheater.

Other Saturday Canton LIVE! entertainment highlights, include: The International Festival cultural performances and displays which begin at 11:30 a.m. and continue most of the day. Presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, this special showcase will feature cultures from around the world, such as: Indian, Chinese, Polynesian, Mongolian, Japanese, and others. Youngest visitors are in for a real treat from 6 until 9:30 p.m. when mini-shows and special Meet and Greets featuring Peppa Pig and George™ will take place, courtesy of Oasis Productions, Inc.

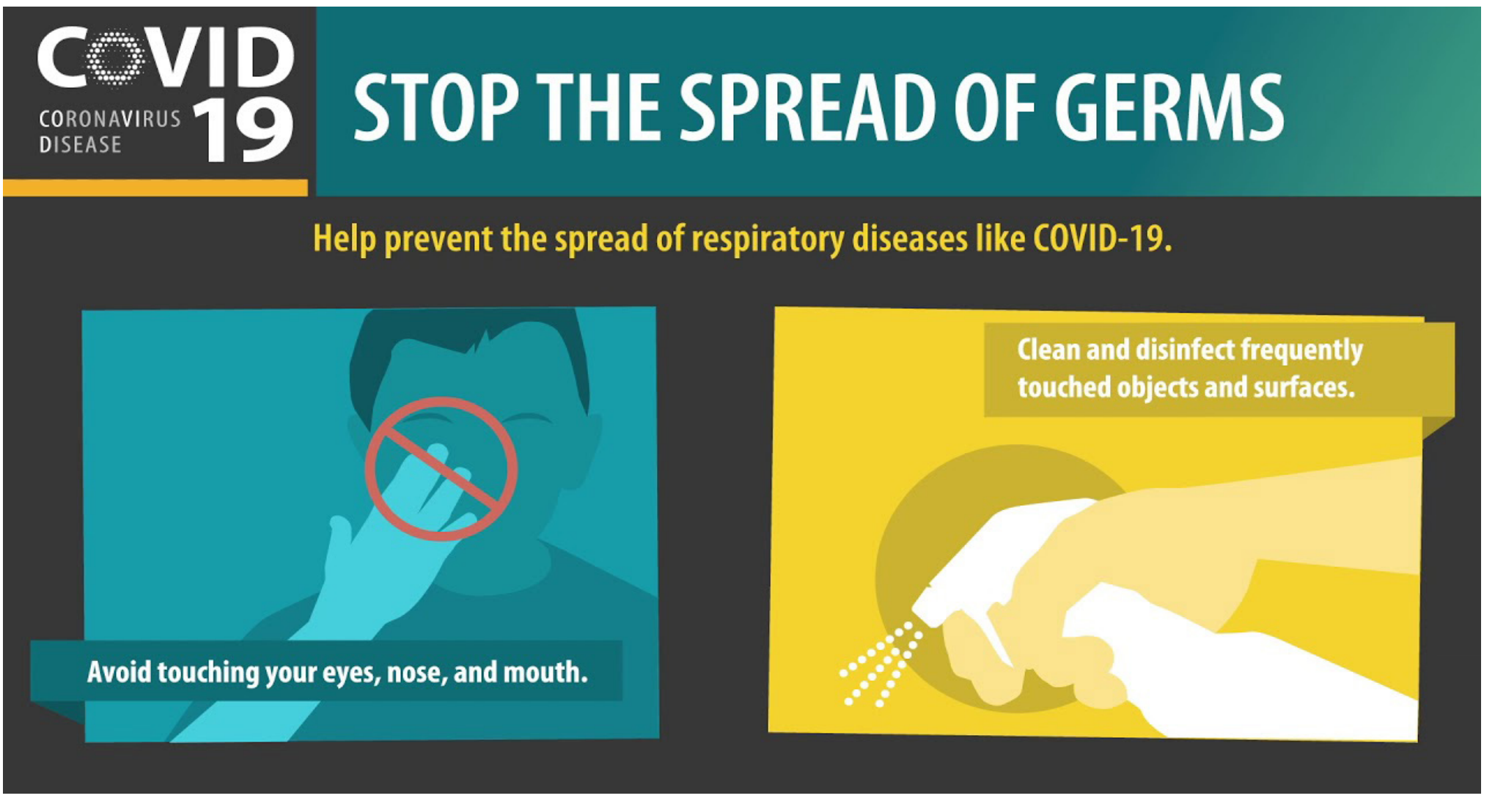
Saturday Amphitheater Stage highlights include: a special Juneteenth Celebration stage presentation staring at 3 p.m., featuring performances by Jack and Jill of America Incorporated - Ypsilanti, MI Chapter, and The Oak Park Marching Band. In addition, festival-goers will hear from keynote speaker and Mistress of Ceremonies Pamela Osborne, a Canton native and WDIV-Channel 4 anchor/reporter. In addition, starting at 5:30 p.m., festival-goers can enjoy Motown favorites performed by a local band. This special Juneteenth Celebration will culminate with a special performance by Detroit Queen of Blues Thornetta Davis. She will perform from 8-10 p.m.

Other festival highlights for both Friday and Saturday include: Axe and Archery Throwing from 1 until 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday when folks can take their best shot during these free activities located near the Canton LIVE Stage, sponsored and organized by Oakland County Parks. Participants can shoot magnetic arrows at a target (great for older children) or throw inflatable Velcro axes at a giant dartboard (suitable for all ages). In addition, festival-goers can catch a wave at the waterless Surf Simulators, located near the Amphitheater stage from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Friday.

Hydration and misting stations will be available throughout the park giving festival-goers a chance to cool off. Organizers suggest visitors bring a refillable water bottle. Walk on the Wild Side, featuring Oasis Animals all day Friday and Saturday, will give all ages the chance to get up close and personal with some barnyard and exotic animals. KultureCity sensory-friendly tents will also be available on the north and south side of Heritage Park that will be a safe space for those with sensory challenges in which to rest, that will also serve as changing or feeding tents, with furniture sponsored by IKEA.

Merchandise from local artisans, crafters, businesses, and vendors will be displaying and selling their items around the large pond at Liberty Fest Marketplace from 4 p.m. until dusk and on Saturday from 11 a.m. to dusk. Liberty Fest returning favorites include: the Scholastic Book Fair; LEGO Station provided by MichLUG (Michigan LEGO Users Group); and others.

Festival-goers are reminded that no dogs are allowed on festival grounds and all bikes must be parked in a bike corral. In addition, a convenient Uber, Lyft, or parent drop-off/pick-off spot has been designated on Civic Center Boulevard in front of the Canton Public Library main parking lot. For more information, visit www.cantonlibertyfest.com or call (734) 394-5360.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# PLYMOUTH

## Resident arrested in threats to business, city manager

Plymouth police arrested a man who sent threatening emails to a local concrete company last Friday afternoon after hearing gunshots from his Karmada Street residence.

According to police reports, reports of the email threats were received from personnel at the Messina Concrete Inc. on Junction Street. The emails allegedly threatened both the owner of the business, Vince Messina, and Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock. In the emails the suspect reportedly threatened to use a shotgun and an ArmaLite rifle as he took his complaints about noise from the concrete trucks and factory "in my own hands."

"Within the email the suspect advised that he felt he needed to take action to shut the business down," according to police reports of the incident." He indicated he would use both a shotgun and AR15 and that people would get hurt or dead."

Officers responded to the complaint about the threats in the late morning last Friday and while at the business, heard gunshots from the area of the suspect's nearby home. They called for back-up and when Plymouth Police Chief Al Cox arrived on the scene, he was unsuccessful in his attempt to speak to the suspect on his cell phone. Subsequently, officers from the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team arrived on the scene along with police officers from both Canton and Plymouth townships.

> *The suspect surrendered to crisis team negotiators after about two hours of negotiations.*

Neighbors in nearby homes were or told to "shelter in place" by police and the Plymouth-Canton schools issued an immediate lockdown in both East and West middle schools and Smith Elementary School.

The suspect surrendered to crisis team negotiators after about two hours of negotiations, police said, and was arrested and taken into police custody. Officers applied for a warrant to search the suspect's home for more firearms and other evidence.

The incident report has been referred to the office of the Wayne County prosecutor for review of charges.

## Former city commissioner Ed Kroll, 80, is mourned

Former Plymouth City Commissioner Ed Krol, 80, died June 6, 2022.

Mr. Krol was a key member of the city commission from 2017 - 2021 and colleagues said his efforts and contributions led to updated strategic plans and a new master plan for the city. Mr. Krol was a leader in advocating for and ultimately passing the 2019 street improvement millage which led to bike lanes and countless pedestrian improvements. His contributions to four detailed and award-winning city budgets kept Plymouth secure and moving forward even though a pandemic, officials added.

Mr. Krol was a strong proponent of strategic development in the city, and his votes helped breathe new life into the old Saxton's site and the new Pulte development on Mill Street.

His time on the commission started with a bang, literally, as less than a year into his service the power station on Farmer Street exploded.

Mr. Krol also served as a board member on the Zoning Board of Appeals where he honed a reputation for being fair and detailed, always prepared for a meeting and no grammatical error passed by his red pen untouched. He loved that work and unorthodoxly continued as a member of the zoning board while on the city commission, a testament to his expertise in that work.

Mr. Krol, a resident of the city since 2000, was a strong supporter of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center (PARC), which successfully rehabilitated the vacated Central High School building.

Mr. Krol earned a bachelor of science degree in biological science from Ferris State University, his masters degree in aquatic biology from Central Michigan University and completed his doctoral work in higher education at Wayne State University.

Mr. Krol spent 38 years teaching anatomy and physiology at Henry Ford Community College and served as the department chair for a time. He was exceptionally proud of his Polish heritage and always wore a traditional Christmas vest to city commission meetings in December. An avid runner, Mr. Krol completed more than a dozen marathons and was often seen running the streets of Plymouth until he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease around 2020, which damaged his mobility and speech. He resigned from the commission in late 2021.

Mr. Krol is survived by his wife, Barbara (Chylla) of Plymouth; a son, Edwin Michael Krol (Ashleigh) of Gainesville, GA; a daughter-in-law, Kristen Krol of Rochester; a sister, Judy Schmidt of Waterford; a brother, James Krol (Linda) of Bloomfield Hills; his grandchildren Alex, Chase, Will and Katie Krol; two stepdaughters, Elisabeth Young of Ferndale and Abigail (James) Semivan of Olympia, WA; many cousins, nieces nephews, grand-nieces and nephews, along with a host of friends.

Mr. Krol was predeceased by his parents, Ed and Jean; a brother-in-law, Melvin Schmidt; his first wife, Rita, and son, John David Krol.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

## Family Fun Night

Plymouth District Library will present Family Fun Night with author/illustrator team Karen Bell-Brege and Darrin Brege from 7 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28. The comedic author/illustrator duo of the bestselling monster children's' books will entertain with an interactive celebration of reading, writing, art, and humor. The authors are recipients of the Gwen Frostic Award from the Michigan Reading Association, given for inspiring literacy in the state of Michigan. Their presentation is a mix of reading, writing and art, books, and includes comedy improv and voice impersonations. Their books will be available for purchase after the event. This 'screen free' program will be free to the general public and will take place at the Penn Theatre at 760 Penniman Ave. in Plymouth. The library and Penn Theatre are collaborating on the presentation which allows for a larger audience. Attendees should register on the event calendar at plymouthlibrary.org.

## Wordle champ

After achieving top scores for completing the popular Wordle puzzle each day, Jan Lucchetti, 87, was crowned the first Weekly Wordle Master, and received a plaque to place outside of her apartment door at Independence Village of Plymouth. Lucchetti, who has lived in Plymouth for 60 years, taught preschool and elementary school in the Plymouth-Canton district before her retirement. She said she became interested in Wordle when her children were completing the puzzle and couldn't wait to show them that she was the first ever Wordle Master at the senior living facility. "The great thing about Wordle is that it keeps your mind going," she said.

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# Northville - Sumpter

## Northville downtown streets to remain closed

Members of the Northville City Council voted unanimously at their June 6 meeting to continue the closure of two downtown streets through Nov. 7.

The vote came following a recommendation from members of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to reopen North Center Street from Main to Dunlap as soon as possible but keep East Main Street closed from Center to Hutton streets.

The streets were closed in mid-2020 in response to the hardships COVID restrictions placed on downtown businesses. The closures have been extended by officials several times to provide wider access to restaurants and businesses downtown. Officials also approved a social district which permitted individuals walk through the area with alcoholic beverages as part of the effort to help local businesses.

"We gave a commitment to every business person in town to go to November," Mayor Brian Turnbull said. "Absolutely we'll commit today to November."

His comments were seconded by other members of the council who supported the closure but recognized that the issue will return to them later this year.

> *We gave a commitment to every business person in town to go to November.*

Mayor Pro tem Barbara Moroski-Browne said the traffic on Center Street and Main Street was a problem in the city prior to the COVID epidemic and would have to be addressed by council members if the streets were to be reopened

"I don't want to keep kicking the decision on the road closure down the road," she said.

Officials requested that the DDA provide data regarding traffic, pedestrian safety, maintenance costs and other factors to aid in discussion of any future closures of the streets, periodically or seasonally, after the November date. Councilmembers John Carter and Andrew Krentz said one of the understated benefits of street closures was that it provided a safe place for families to visit, especially those with young children.

Krentz commented that because of the unique situation in Northville, the city had become a destination for many diners and shoppers. He said the downtown area offered an atmosphere other communities have not been able to provide.

The council members also took the opportunity to thank the more than 4,000 people who responded to a recent survey of public opinion regarding the closures. Council members also noted that downtown Northville had only a few business closings due to COVID-19.

## Arts and Acts event begins in downtown tomorrow

Arts and Acts, presented by the Northville Art House, will take place this weekend, June 17-19, throughout downtown Northville.

The Northville Art House, a 501(c)3 comprehensive art facility, is hosting the fundraiser which includes Art in the Sun Juried Art Fair, an outdoor gallery of more than 75 local and national artists who have been selected from a pool of more than 150 applicants to display their work.

Arts and Acts will be staged along Main, Center, and Wing streets, adjacent to the downtown Northville Social District. Families can enjoy several events including the interactive chalk wall, the Chalk Festival, and musical acts as well as festival food and drink at mobile trucks, food pods, and local restaurants. There will also be readings and music at the Short on Words event that will take place at the Northville Art House on nearby Cady Street.

> *Live acts will perform throughout the day both Friday and Saturday, June 17 - 18.*

Admission is free. For more information and updates, visit www.northvillearthouse.org/artsandacts/ and @ArtsAndActsFestival. Proceeds benefit the Northville Art House mission to cultivate the arts through creative experiences and educational programs in the community.

The festival will be open from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. tomorrow, June 17; from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. June 18 and from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 19.

The 34th Annual Art in the Sun Juried Art Fair, which will be open each day of the festival, showcases contemporary art and unique creations by 75 fine artists and crafters from around the country competing for monetary awards based on original artwork and booth presentation.

Live acts will perform throughout the day both Friday and Saturday, June 17 - 18. Solo musicians will be strolling along the festival path and from 7 - 9 p.m. acoustic groups will be performing in the festival area.

The Northville Art House Chalk Festival, set for 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, June 18 between Main and S. Center streets, features artists transforming the pavement into a checkered pattern of color and imagination, while visitors view the chalk art at their feet, and then vote online for their favorite. Divisions include children (ages 0 - 11), teens (ages 12 - 17) and adults (ages 18 and up) with a Jury Award and a People's Choice Award given in each division.

The Author's Brunch to celebrate the 10th year - ninth edition of Short on Words poetry and short story competition, will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 18 at the Northville Art House. The event will feature readings, live music, light refreshments, and an awards presentation. This year more than 70 local, national, and international authors shared their original short stories and poetry inspired by one of 10 photographs taken by event organizer, Preservation Dental - The Office of Dr. William S. Demray. Awards to be given to the top three works in both the youth (ages 17 and under) and adult (18 and up) categories.

The Northville Art House Chalk Festival, set for this Saturday between Main and S. Center streets, features artists transforming the pavement into a checkered pattern of color and imagination.

Arts and Acts 2022 partners include: Bath Planet, Midwest Gutter Gard, DTE Foundation, Flagstar Bank, Orin Jewelers, Tuscan Café, The Northville Gallery Artwork & Framing, Two Stones Events, Garage Grill & Fuel Bar, Detroit Vineyards, Alexander's Custom Clothiers, Preservation Dental-The Office of Dr. Williams S. Demray, Precision Print & Label, and Northville District Library.

## Sumpter committee to review job descriptions

Sumpter Township Trustees have approved the formation of a committee to review the job descriptions of some officials.

Deputy Supervisor/Trustee Tim Rush told the trustees during the May 25 study session preceding the regular meeting that he and Trustee Matt Oddy proposed a committee to review the job descriptions, wages and benefits of the deputy treasurer and clerk. He said the deputy supervisor position would not be reviewed as it was a part-time assignment.

Rush, Oddy, Supervisor Tim Bowman and Clerk Esther Hurst were named to the committee who would then bring their findings back to the board. They will be responsible for providing job descriptions for each of the full-time township positions along with recommendations for wages and benefits.

Any changes would be made by vote of the board of trustees, Rush stressed. The motion to form the committee was approved with Oddy excused from the meeting.

## City budget is approved

Members of the Northville City Council approved the 2023 fiscal budget during a recent meeting. The general operating millage in the city will be reduced to 13.0182 mills. The street, drainage, and sidewalk improvement millage will decrease to 1.6216 mills. Both reductions are in compliance with the Headlee amendment, officials said. The street bond millage will be set at 0.7862 mills.

Council members also agreed to reallocate $110,000 in funds from the Public Improvement Fund from racetrack breakage revenue toward police and fire equipment. The city will purchase a used bucket truck at a cost of $50,000 and $60,000 will be dedicated to police and fire equipment reserves. Uncommitted racetrack breakage revenue in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 amounted to $319,313. In addition, reallocation of non-breakage revenue from the fund will be used to pay a portion of the cost of a new play structure at Ford Field.

Fifteen thousand dollars allocated to the pavilion at Fish Hatchery Park will instead go toward the Fort Griswold replacement play structure, coupled with $135,000. Council members later carved out $50,000 from the $150,000 play structure allotment to be directed toward general improvements to Ford Field. Other reallocated funds are $25,000 for a large format printer and $18,000 to cover higher than budgeted costs for city entrance signs.

Council members also approved the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD police vehicle, which will be delivered after July 1 as part of the fiscal year 2023 budget. The purchase allows the department to rotate vehicles so that a 2015 administrative vehicle can be sold and a 2017 Ford Explorer will be converted from a police vehicle to administrative use. The new Tahoe is offered on the State of Michigan MIDEAL contract for $40,426. It will be outfitted with equipment from the decommissioned 2017 Explorer, officials said.